

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, and 10-18 are pending in the application. Claim 8 has been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 10 stands objected to for incorrect dependency. Accordingly, claim 10 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 6.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 10, and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Veith (U.S. Pat. No. 3,740,072) in view of Racina (U.S. Pat. No. 3,028,617). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicant notes that claims 1 and 15 have been amended to recite a hitch receiver disposed on the rear of the vehicle, said hitch receiver defining an aperture. Applicant notes that neither Veith nor Racina disclose such a feature. As the Examiner has noted, the shoe cleaning device of Veith is for connection to a door opening of a vehicle. Veith recites, "It is therefore a primary purpose of this invention to provide a foot cleaner device which will be mounted on the lower channel groove in the door opening of the vehicle". Further, Veith recites that "(the device) will be pivotable sideways as well as upwards so as to prevent the device from being struck accidentally". Col. 1, Lines 5 – 13. Racina discloses a brush unit supported on a post of a hand pull cart.

Neither Veith nor Racina teach or suggest a hitch receiver defining an aperture wherein a brush unit coupled to a frame is adapted to be coupled to the hitch receiver by a coupling element. The shoe cleaning apparatus claimed in the present invention provides a hitch receiver disposed on the rear of the vehicle, the hitch receiver defining an aperture. A frame includes a mounting arm for aligning with the aperture formed in the hitch receiver of the vehicle. A coupling element extends through the hitch receiver aperture and the mounting aperture in an installed position. As a result, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 4, 5 and 15 – 18 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended claim 6 to recite a hinge disposed on the lower portion of the mounting arm for moving the brush assembly between an operating position and a storage position. Applicant respectfully asserts that the hinge of Veith is formed with both the lower portion (19) *and* the stepped portion (14). Specifically, an opening 17 formed in ears 16 of the stepped portion 14 cooperates with a bolt 20 and passage 18 in the lower portion 19.


The shoe cleaning apparatus of the present invention is distinct from Veith and the art of record. As illustrated in FIG. 8, the mounting arm 430 includes a stepped portion 438. The stepped portion 438 extends substantially perpendicularly between an upper portion and a lower portion 448 and 452. A hinge 432 is disposed *on* the lower portion 452. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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